Capitol Comments

By Dan Daniel, Fifth District, Virginia

DECEMBER 16 - It may very well be that the Congress will over the next few months be dealing with matters relating to Iran. At this writing, American men and women have been held hostage by that country for more than a month. We are in the process of gathering information relating to the subject. What has happened in similar situations?

The men of the U.S.S. PUEBLO were held by North Korea for 11 months in 1968, and in 1964, several hundred Europeans and 40 Americans, including the U.S. Consul General and four of his aides, were held prisoner by a rebel group which captured more than half of what was formerly the Belgian Congo and which set up its own provisional government.

It is important as time passes that we keep sorted out in our minds just what the issues are in this situation, for a lot of misinformation is abroad, along with an even greater amount of misinterpretation.

At this point, the issue is not the Shah. If it were, then how do you explain the fact that Egypt, Morocco and Mexico - all of whom gave sanctuary to the Shah - were not subjected to the treatment accorded our own country?

Nor is the issue in any way based on law. We are being told that the Shah should be extradited to Iran. But we have no treaty of extradition with that country. And if we did, all such treaties require that assurances be given that the individual so surrendered will be accorded a fair trial, with adequate representation. Khomeini having already declared the Shah guilty and announced he will be "punished", no such assurance can be given.

Nor, in the context of Islamic law, can American citizens be tried as spies. Neither spying nor espionage are crimes for which there is specific punishment. An Islamic court would presumably have to go back to 12th Century precedents, and declare that "spies" were similar to prisoners of war who could be tried for criminal acts.

Keeping as clear a head as possible under the circumstances and at this point, the matter is not religious, at least in terms of a conflict between Moslems and non-Moslems. Islam is a stern religion placing heavy emphasis on the Koran as guide for living. It is an "eye-for-an-eye" religion, and much of it sounds not unlike the Old Testament. It instructs its followers to "respect your guests, even if they are pagans", and it sets out rules for treatment of foreigners within the nation's borders which are more courteous - more civilized, if you will - than the requirements of presentday diplomacy either require or expect.

Well, if the present conflict is none of these things, what is it?

Iran is in the hands of a fanatic. One of his most trusted aides has set forth, with Khomeini's endorsement, a plan to return the nation to a "18th Century economy and lifestyle". His delusions spread beyond Iran's borders as well, for he has stated time and again his desire to see a holy war between Moslems and the people of the civilized world.

These things being true, what can we do?

We have already imposed certain economic sanctions, and we can impose more - we can control or freeze commercial transactions involving Iran in general; control the import or export of currencies and securities and foreign exchange transactions; control transfers of credits or payments between banking institutions.

And then of course there is the military option. This can be effected in a number of ways, although it would serve no good purpose to outline them at this point. It is well to remember, though, that they are there; we are not altogether helpless.

What we must not do is succumb to blackmail. One way or another, this matter will one day be behind us, and we must take the lessons we learn in these days and apply them to future developments.

This could have been prevented but that is a matter for later discussion. Right now, it is vital that we not let ourselves be split apart by false charges or ingenious logic.

Food Shopper

Va. Dept. of Agriculture And Consumer Services
Division of Markets
Anna C. Atkins
Retail Market Reporter

All too rapidly it's here--Christmas. With all the hustle and bustle of family gatherings, parties, shopping, decorating and celebrating, it's nice to know you've got a head start on your food preparation. You'll have more time to slow down and really enjoy the Christmas season.

What's the secret. Using your freezer and storing food until the holidays. There's no doubt your freezer can be a real aid in advance preparation, but it might be wise to review a few do's and don'ts. Freezing does not improve any food product and some foods should not be frozen.

Yeast Breads - yeast breads and rolls freeze well. Bake your bread, cool to room temperature, package in moisture-proof wrapping and freeze to zero degrees. When ready to use thaw in original wrapper and warm in oven if desired.

Cakes - Cakes freeze best if baked before freezing. Frost before freezing if frosting is the uncooked confectioner sugar type. Boiled icings are best if applied after the cake has thawed.

Cookies - Most cookies freeze well baked or unbaked. Cookie dough does save freezer space over freezing cookies.

Pies Mincemeat and fruit pies freeze best unbaked. Cut holes in the upper crust just before baking; bake while still frozen. Bake at 425°F. for 15 minutes then at 325°F. until the juice boils up through the cut in the center of the top crust. Cream pies, custard-type pies and meringues do not freeze well.

Main Dish Casseroles - Casseroles are more difficult to freeze due to some flavor changes in ingredients. For example: peppers get stronger and onions get milder. Avoid fat in casseroles, too.

Get a head start on the holidays. Plan ahead and avoid the last minute rush.

Santa visits TMR students at the FBLA meeting.

FBLA Holds Meeting

The Appomattox County High School Future Business Leaders of America held its monthly meeting on December 5, 1979.

Debbie Roach, president, called the meeting to order. Tammy Womack, chaplain, gave devotions and Gloria Hodges, secretary, read the minutes of the last meeting. Melinda Davis, treasurer, read the financial report.

Gina Kriedal gave the "Member of the Month" report. Debbie Roach, president of our chapter, and daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Aulden Roach, was selected as the member of the month for December.

The president announced that the Christmas project will be providing food for a needy family in the area. Students are to bring in non-perishable goods to their business class.

Then, as we were about to start our Business is Right show, guess who popped in from the North Pole? That's right . . . Santa Claus. He gave Christmas presents to the TMR students who were invited guests at our meeting. After Santa had started back to the North Pole, we had our Business is Right show. Gus Paulette and Mike Campbell led several contestant son to be big winners.

The Future Business Leaders of America of Appomattox County High School would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas!

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Mrs. Dickerson's 4-H Club

By Jeff Bates

Mrs. Dickerson's 4-H Club met on Friday, December 7, 1979. Roger Bates led us in the Pledge to the American Flag and Tara Walker led us in the 4-H pledge. The Recreation Leaders led us in a song, and Mrs. Chilton led us in a game. We talked about energy conservation. She gave us slips to plant pine trees. Mrs. Walton then showed us how to make some homemade Christmas gifts and wrapping paper.

Musicians Highlight Red Hill Event

The Lynchburg Early Music Consort will perform selections of Elizabethan and Renaissance music at Red Hill Shrine near Brookneal on Sunday afternoon, December 16 from 3-6 p.m. The performances highlight Red Hill's annual "Christmas by Candlelight" program, sponsored by the Patrick Henry Memorial Foundation. The event is open to the public.

Headed by James Carrington, President, the Lynchburg Early Music Consort has performed throughout the greater Lynchburg area for churches, civic groups and other organizations. Its members play 16th and 17th century medieval European instruments of which some were later imported to America by early settlers. The instruments used by the group are authentic replicas of early European pieces. Three one-half hour performances are scheduled for Red Hill on December 16.

Patrick Henry's restored plantation home and the Patrick Henry Museum will be decorated with traditional colonial greenery. Hostesses attired in colonial costumes will provide assistance and serve refreshments in the Museum Library. Visitors can tour Patrick Henry's home on December 16 illuminated by candles.

Christmas decorations include pine, cedar, boxwood, holly, fruits and berries in designs similar to that used by the colonial family at their annual holiday celebrations. Decorations for the Shrine are provided by the Hat Creek Home Extension Club and decorations for the Museum are provided by the Phenix Home Extension Club.

Red Hill Shrine and the Patrick Henry Museum are open throughout the winter from 9-4 p.m. It will be closed on Christmas Day. Red Hill is located five miles east of Brookneal, off Route 40 in Charlotte County. There will be a slight admission charge for the program.

Come On Home For Christmas

Christmas is special for all Christians. Roman Catholics celebrate the Holy Days at "The Immaculate Conception" (Dec. 8), Christmas Day, and "The Feast of the Holy Family (Jan. 1).

The Our Lady of Peace Catholic community at Appomattox will be celebrating at the school building in Oakville (5 miles N of Appomattox on Route 26). The schedule for the Christmas season is:

Sun., Dec. 16 - 9 a.m. - Mass
Wed., Dec. 19 - 7 p.m. - Piennance Service
Sun., Dec. 23 - 5:30 p.m. - Mass
Tues., Dec. 25 - 9 a.m. - Christ Mass
Sun., Dec. 30 - 9 a.m. - Mass - Children's Liturgy
Mon., Dec. 31 - 5:30 p.m. - Mass
Sun., Jan 6 - 9 a.m. Communion Service

All who would like to attend any of these services are welcome. Especially invited are those who have a background in the Catholic tradition but have not attended recently. We invite you to come on home for Christmas.

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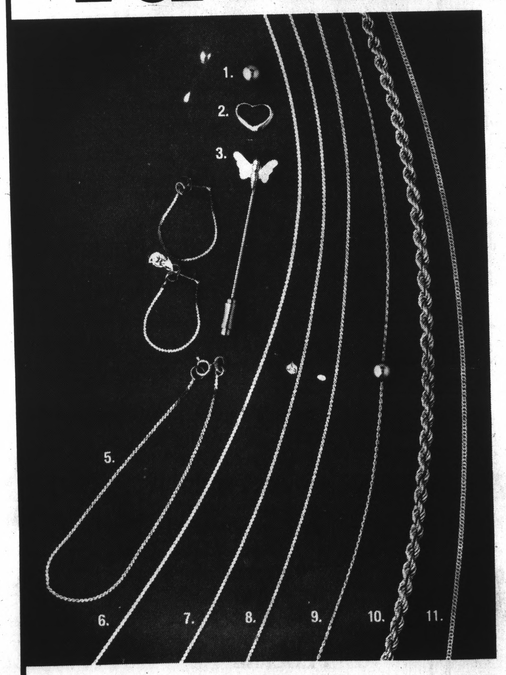

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